

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BUENOS 01672 072135Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-01
USIA-06 SS-15 SP-02 /061 W
-----008286 080514Z /23
R 071934Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4818
INFO AMEMBASSY CARACAS
AMEMBASSY MADRID

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUENOS AIRES 1672

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINR, AR, VE, SP (SANTANDER, ERNESTO)
SUBJECT: NEW VENEZUELAN AMBASSADOR TO SPAIN

REF: MADRID 01636

1. ERNESTO SANTANDER HAS HAD A SPECKLED CAREER IN MEDICINE, TEACHING, POLITICS AND DIPLOMACY. IN BUENOS AIRES, WHERE HE SERVED AS AMBASSADOR SINCE 1974, SANTANDER WAS KNOWN AS AN INDEFATIGABLE, WITTY AND GREGARIOUS DIPLOMAT, A CULTIVATOR OF EDUCATORS AND INTELLECTUALS, A LAVISH ENTHUSIAST OF ARGENTINA AND A MAN WITH MYRIAD INTERESTS AND IRONS IN THE FIRE. HIS RECENT ROUND OF FAREWELLS IN ARGENTINA WERE WELL PUBLICIZED. AT ONE FAREWELL HOSTED BY A UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT WITH SOME OF ARGENTINA'S BEST KNOWN SOCIOLOGISTS, HISTORIANS AND THINKERS, SANTANDER GRANDIOUSELY SPOKE OF MOVING ON TO SPAIN TO STUDY "EURO-LATINOAMERICANIDAD", WHICH HE DESCRIBED AS THE PROCESS OF TRANSITTING PRESENT POLITICAL FORMS FOR A NEW DEMOCRATIC HUMANISM OF THE FUTURE. "DIPLOMACY IS LITTLE KNOWN TO MOST MEN" SAID SANTANDER ON THAT OCCASION, "BUT HAVING LEARNED THE TRICKS OF THE TRADE IN ARGENTINA, I AT THIS POINT AM A STRONG BELIEVER IN THE USEFULNESS OF THE ART."

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PAGE 02 BUENOS 01672 072135Z

2. SANTANDER, AGE 56, IS A NEAT, COMPACT MAN WHO DRESSES CONSERVATIVELY. HE OBTAINED A DEGREE IN MEDICINE IN VENEZUELA IN 1945 AND TOOK SUBSEQUENT COURSES IN BUENOS AIRES, PARIS, BARCELONA, BERN, MADRID, BOGOTA AND MEXICO. HE WAS A DEPUTY IN THE VENEZUELAN NATIONAL CONGRESS FROM 1963-68 AND HAS REPRESENTED HIS COUNTRY IN CONGRESSES IN GENEVA, MEXICO AND BARCELONA.

IN EARLIER FORAYS INTO THE DIPLOMATIC LIFE, SANTANDER SERVED AS CHARGE D'AFFAIRES IN SWITZERLAND, AUSTRIA AND YUGOSLAVIA. HE HAS WRITTEN NUMEROUS ARTICLES ON MEDICINE, POLITICS AND EDUCATION. HE HAS WRITTEN FOR THE VENEZUELAN PRESS, AND HAS TAUGHT AT THE UNIVERSITY DE LOS ANDES.

3. SANTANDER SPEAKS FRENCH AND CAN READ ENGLISH AND PORTUGUESE. HE IS MARRIED TO LUISA MARTINI AND HAS SIX CHILDREN.
CHAPLIN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AMBASSADOR DESIGNATE, BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION
Control Number: n/a
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Draft Date: 07 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
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Disposition Case Number: n/a
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TAGS: PINR, PDIP, AR, VE, SP, (SANTANDER, ERNESTO)
To: STATE
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